

***New Jersey Motorcycle  
Safety Education Program  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2003***



***NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY***



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>I.</b>	<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Background.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>NJ Motorcycle Safety Education Program Sites .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Fiscal Data.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Classes.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Registration Data.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Fatalities and Injuries Data .....</b>	<b>11</b>

## **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of the New Jersey Motorcycle Safety Education Program is to provide to new and experienced riders a course of instruction and training designed to improve the operation and riding of a motorcycle. The Program operates under the direction of the Director of the Division of Highway Traffic Safety. During 2003, 6,394 participants completed the Program. Classes were provided at two training sites by the Division, and at seven other training sites by three "private providers" - public and private educational institutions approved by the Director to offer the Program. The map in Section III on page 5 shows the location of each training site in the State by county and the operating entity.

The number of motorcycle registrations in the nation and the State has increased in recent years. Nationwide, the number of registrations rose from 4.1 million in 1999 to 5.2 million in 2002, an increase of 28 percent. During the same period in the State, the number of registrations has increased by an estimated 24 percent, from 105,000 to 130,000. According to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, the number of registrations for 2003 was 126,793 as of 09/09/03. Despite an increase in registrations, fatalities resulting from motorcycle crashes have declined overall in the State in the last four years with the exception of 2001. After rising from 54 in 2000 to 77 in 2001, fatalities have resumed a downward trend and declined to 50 in 2002 and to an estimated 47 in 2003. The total number of motorcycle crash-related injuries has consistently declined despite the increase in ridership. The availability of motorcycle safety education courses has been an important contributing factor to the decline in fatalities and crash-related injuries despite the increase in motorcycle registrations.

The following sections of the Report provide further information about the history and curriculum of the Program, funding and expenditures, the number of classes offered, student performance, motorcycle registration, and crash and injuries data.

## II. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to P.L. 1991, c.452 (N.J.S.A. 27:5F-36 et seq.), the Director of Highway Traffic Safety, after consultation with the Motorcycle Safety Education Advisory Committee, established the Program in 1992 and adopted the curriculum developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF). The curriculum provides for courses geared to different skill levels: the beginner's course (RSS), an intermediate course (IRC), and an experienced rider course (ERC). Each course combines classroom instruction with specifically designed "on cycle" skill exercises performed by students on an MSF-designed motorcycle range under the direction of a qualified instructor. All instructors and participants wear MSF-approved helmets, eye protection, gloves and protective clothing suitable for training.

The beginner's course can be offered over a three day period. It is designed chiefly for new riders, in particular permit holders, and focuses on basic concepts and skills, culminating in a written knowledge test and a motorcycle operator's test. MSF - standard training motorcycles are provided to the students. State laws governing the ownership and operation of motorcycles are also covered. Permit holders who successfully complete the course are eligible to receive from the Motor Vehicle Commission a waiver of the road test portion of the motorcycle licensing examination (N.J.S.A. 39:3-10.31). The intermediate course is designed for licensed riders with less than six months riding experience and re-emphasizes basic skills and concepts. The experienced course is designed for licensed riders with more than six months experience. Each of these courses can be completed in one day, and students may use privately owned motorcycles that comply with MSF standards for safe operation.

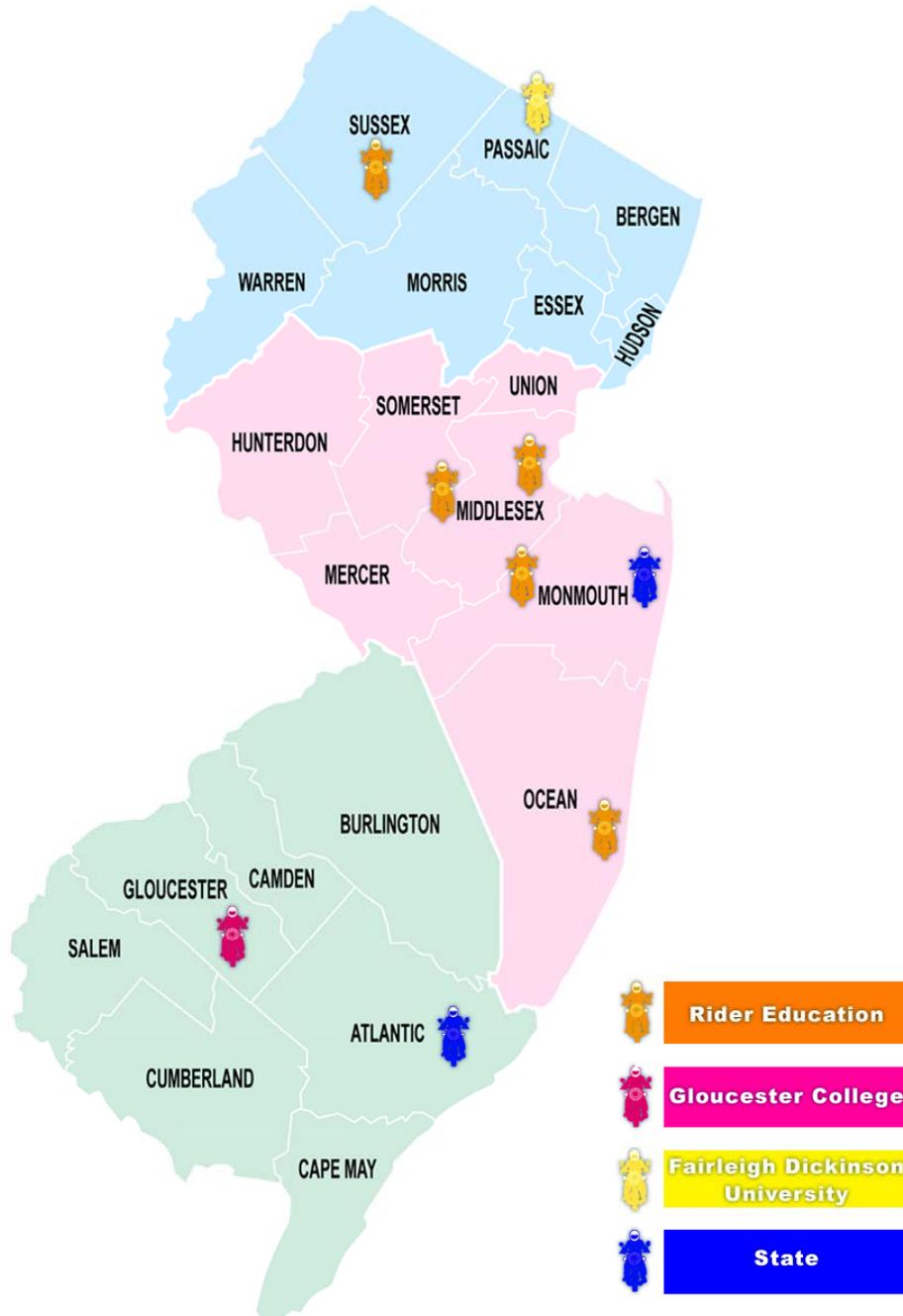
Additionally, an intensive 7 day training and preparation course for instructors (IPC), taught by an MSF-certified trainer, is available. Successful completion of the IPC is necessary to qualify as an instructor/rider coach.

In 2001, the MSF developed a new beginner's course, the BRC, and as of January 2004 ended its support of the current RSS course. The Division will adopt the new BRC course for the 2004 training year. To prepare for this transition, in November and December 2003, Division personnel sponsored a two-day New Curriculum update to the eligible instructors in New Jersey.

The Division offers State classes at the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs facility in Sea Girt and the Anthony Canale Fire and Police Training Academy in Egg Harbor Township. There are currently three private providers: Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) in Teaneck, Gloucester County College in Sewell, and Rider Education of New Jersey. Rider Education operates 5 training sites: Edison, Lakehurst, Lyncroft, Newton, and Piscataway.



### III. SITES



#### IV. FISCAL DATA

The Motorcycle Safety Education Fund established in the Division supports the classes offered by the Division and its related Program responsibilities. It operates on the State fiscal year calendar. Five dollars of the fee charged for the issuance of a motorcycle license or endorsement is deposited by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission in the Fund. During State Fiscal Year 2003, the amount of monies in the Fund that were available to implement the motorcycle safety education program totaled \$909,684. Monies deposited during SFY 2003 totaled \$582,028, and monies expended totaled \$316,610. Graph 1 shows the Motorcycle Fund Expenditure distribution as follows: Personal Services 83%, Indirect Cost 2%, Other Direct Cost 1%, Commodities 13%, Other Direct Cost 1%. The Outline for the Expenditure Categories is presented in Table 1.

Graph 1.

**New Jersey Motorcycle Fund Expenditures Percentage, 2003**

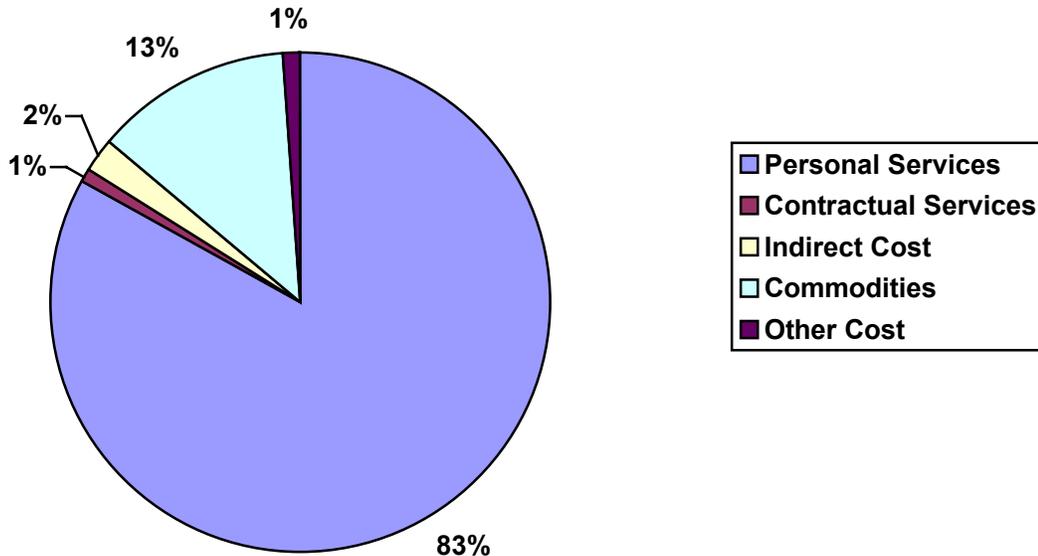


Table 1.

2003 Motorcycle Fund Expenditure \*

<b>Account Titles to the Expenditure Categories</b>			
<i>Personal Services</i>		<i>Commodities</i>	
Instructors' Clothing	2,094	Office Supplies	1,373
Fringes	20,565	Educ. Materials	38,193
Gasoline/Fuel	1,972		
Insurance	9,025	<b>Total</b>	<b>39,566</b>
Maintenance	1,687	<i>Contractual Services</i>	
Memberships	1,000		
Mileage Reimbursement	1,111	Tech. Prof.	3,645
Postage	149		
Printing	29,005	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,645</b>
Rent Central	2,635		
Rent Other	925	<i>Other Direct Costs</i>	
Salaries & Wages	186,329		
Staff Training	180	Other Equipment	4,784
Telephone	6,650		
Tolls & Parking	43	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,784</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,369</b>	<i>Indirect Cost</i>	
		Indirect Cost	5,245
		<b>Total</b>	<b>5,245</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>316,610</b>		

\* Monies in the Fund have been sufficient to offer the State course without charging a student fee. Pursuant to regulation, private providers of the Program may charge a tuition.

## V. CLASSES

The Motorcycle Safety Education Program in New Jersey offers 4 courses: the Basic Rider Course[s] (RSS)\*, the Intermediate Course (IRC), the Experienced Rider Course (ERC), and the Instructor Preparation Course (IPC).

Table 2. shows the distribution during 2003 of classes taught by the private providers and State classes taught by the Division. Private providers offered 432 Basic Rider Course classes, 15 Intermediate Course classes, and 41 Experienced Rider Course classes. The Division offered 53 classes in the Basic Rider Course, 11 in the Experienced Rider Course, and 4 in the Instructor Preparation Course. The Instructor Preparation Course is offered by the Division to all new instructor candidates.

\*The RSS will be replaced by the new MSF “BRC” beginner’s course as of January 2004.

Table 2.

**Number of Classes Offered By Private Providers And The State in 2003**

Providers/Class	Basic Rider Course (RSS)	Intermediate Rider Course (IRC)	Experienced Rider Course (ERC)	Instructor Preparation Course (IPC)
<b>Fairleigh Dickinson University</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>Gloucester County College</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>4</b>	
<b>Rider Education of New Jersey</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>State (Sea Girt)</b>	<b>53</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>(Egg Harbor)</b>	<b>39</b> <b>14</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>

The statistics reported in this table are from data provided by the providers to DHTS.

The total number of students that were trained Statewide in 2003 by each provider and the State is presented in Table 3. In 2003, there were a total of 6,394 students trained in the entire State. Similarly, Graph 2 shows the number of students trained in the last 5 years by the private providers and the State.

Table 3.

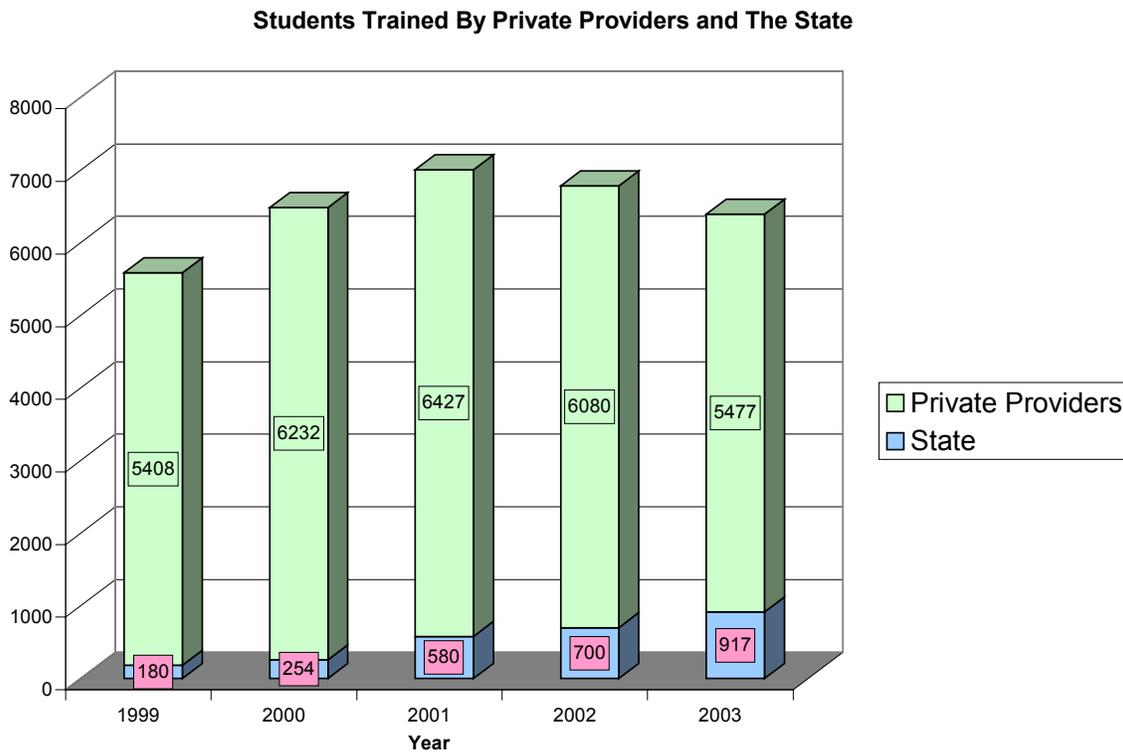
**Number of Students Trained By Private Providers And The State in 2003**

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Percentage Failed %</b>
<b>DHTS</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>14.0</b>
	<b>Intermediate</b>				<b>-</b>
	<b>Experience</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7.7</b>
<b>Fairleigh Dickinson</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>1037</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>9.2</b>
	<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>0</b>
	<b>Experience</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Gloucester County</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>16.0</b>
	<b>Intermediate</b>				
	<b>Experience</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Rider Ed. New Jersey</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>3370</b>	<b>2985</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>5.4</b>
	<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
	<b>Experience</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>Basic</b>	<b>5798</b>	<b>5009</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>8.4</b>
	<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
	<b>Experience</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>6,394</b>	<b>5,563</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>7.9</b>

Data provided from class roster information sent by private providers to DHTS.

Graph 2 shows for the period 1999 to 2003 the number of people trained by the private providers and the Division. In 2001 more students were trained than any other year. The number of students taking State courses through the Division increased from 180 in 1999 to 917 in 2003. The private providers trained 5,408 students in 1999 and 5,477 in 2003.

Graph 2.



## **VI. MOTORCYCLE REGISTRATION DATA**

### **Registrations.**

Table 4 presents data on registration for the State and the nation. The number of motorcycles registered in New Jersey has increased by 24 percent points from 105,077 in 1999 to 130,000 in 2002. Nationwide, the number of motorcycles registered increased by 28 percent points from 4,110,740 in 1999 to 5,251,130 in 2002.

Table 4.

**Motorcycle Registrations in the State and the Nation**

<b>Registrations</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>
<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>105,077</b>	<b>111,430</b>	<b>125,303</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>126,793*</b>
<b>Nation</b>	<b>4,110,740</b>	<b>4,303,762</b>	<b>4,862,158</b>	<b>5,251,130</b>	<b>N/A</b>

The data reported in this Table is provided from the Federal Highway Administration and DOT.

Note: \*=Data available from 1/1/03 to 9/9/03.

N/A= Is not available.

**VII. FATALITIES AND INJURIES DATA**

The information regarding injuries is presented in Table 5. The total number of motorcycle crashes increased by 7.8 percent points from 2000 to 2002. In contrast, motorcycle injuries decreased for the same period by 31 percent points. For the period 2000 to 2003, fatal crashes have been relatively stable, with the exception of the year 2001.

Table 5

**New Jersey Motorcycle Injuries and Fatalities**

	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003*</b>
<b>Total Number of Crashes</b>	<b>2365</b>	<b>2705</b>	<b>2550</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Total Number of Injuries</b>	<b>3202</b>	<b>2240</b>	<b>2208</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Fatal Crashes</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Fatal Injuries</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>

The data reported in this Table is provided from NJDOT and the DHTS. \*=Estimates based on preliminary data.

N/A =Is not available